Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) premium by 10%, enhancement of the rates of duty drawback, interest subvention of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, refund of service tax, raising the revenue ceiling for Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana.

Revival package for tea plantation

2507. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government sanctioned a revival package for plantations;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of plantations considered for the package: State-wise;

(c) whether Government received separate proposal from the Government of Kerela for taking over closed/abandoned tea plantation in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the centre to consider the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A rehabilitation package was sanctioned by the Government on June 29, 2007 for 33 tea gardens, lying closed as on 1.4.2007 affecting more than 30,000 workers. 17 of these gardens are in West Bengal, 14 in Kerala and 2 in Assam. 11 of these gardens have now reopened. The package provides for restructuring of outstanding bank dues, provision of fresh working capital with interest subsidy from Government, waiver of outstanding loan due to Tea Board and settlement of provident fund dues in instalments. Once the accounts of these gardens are regularised, these will become eligible for loan for replanting under the Special Purpose Tea Fund and subsidy for machinery items under Quality Upgradation Scheme of Tea Board.

(c) and (d) The aforesaid rehabilitation package was announced after consideration of all the proposals received in this regard, including the proposal from the Government of Kerala.

SEZs approved by Government

2508. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how many Special Economic Zones (SEZs) have been approved by Government till 31st December, 2007, State-wise;

(b) how many have started manufacturing activities as on 31st December, 2007;

(c) what is the amount invested by these SEZs in the form of capital; and

(d) what is the total number of employment provided by these SEZs State-wise as on 31st December, 2007?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) State-wise numbers of SEZs formally approved till 31st December, 2007 are as under: